

## H-295.896 Conscience Clause: Final Report

Principles to guide exemption of medical students from activities based on conscience include the following:

(1) Medical schools should address the various types of conflicts that could arise between a physician's individual conscience and patient wishes or health care institution policies as part of regular curricular discussions of ethical and professional issues. (2) Medical schools should have mechanisms in place that permit students to be excused from activities that violate the students' religious or ethical beliefs. Schools should define and regularly review what general types of activities a student may exempt as a matter of conscience, and what curricular alternatives are required for students who exempt each type of activity. (3) Prospective students should be informed prior to matriculation of the school's policies related to exemption from activities based on conscience. (4) There should be formal written policies that govern the granting of an exemption, including the procedures to obtain an exemption and the mechanism to deal with matters of conscience that are not covered in formal policies. (5) Policies related to exemption based on conscience should be applied consistently. (6) Students should be required to learn the basic content or principles underlying procedures or activities that they exempt. Any exceptions to this principle should be explicitly described by the school. (7) Patient care should not be compromised in permitting students to be excused from participating in a given activity. (CME Rep .9, I-98; Reaffirmed: CEJA Rep. 11, A-08)

American Medical Association. Retrieved May 3, 2014 from: <https://download.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/PolicyFinder/policyfiles/HnE/H-295.896.HTM>